

LINCOLN, NE - Congressman Jeff Fortenberry today commented on the need for immigration-related criminal justice reform in light of a motor vehicle crash leading to the death of a 4-year-old girl in Omaha earlier this week. The driver of the vehicle killing the girl has a record of four DUI offenses and is suspected of being in the country illegally.

“This appears to be a tragic example of a failed system,” Fortenberry said. “While our nation’s immigration policies are broken at many levels, this case highlights the need for a well-defined, well-understood policy of cooperative procedures between federal and local law enforcement authorities.

“It is hard to understand how someone with such an extensive criminal background, including four DUI offenses and multiple arrests, is not in jail nor has been reviewed for legal residency status. If it turns out the accused is not in this country legally, serious questions must be addressed as to how such circumstances can be prevented in the future.”

Last year Fortenberry was involved in the facilitation of increased cooperation between local law enforcement and federal immigration officials in eastern Nebraska. He has also supported policies to require proof of legal residence for obtaining a state-issued driver’s license. Fortenberry is a member of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

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